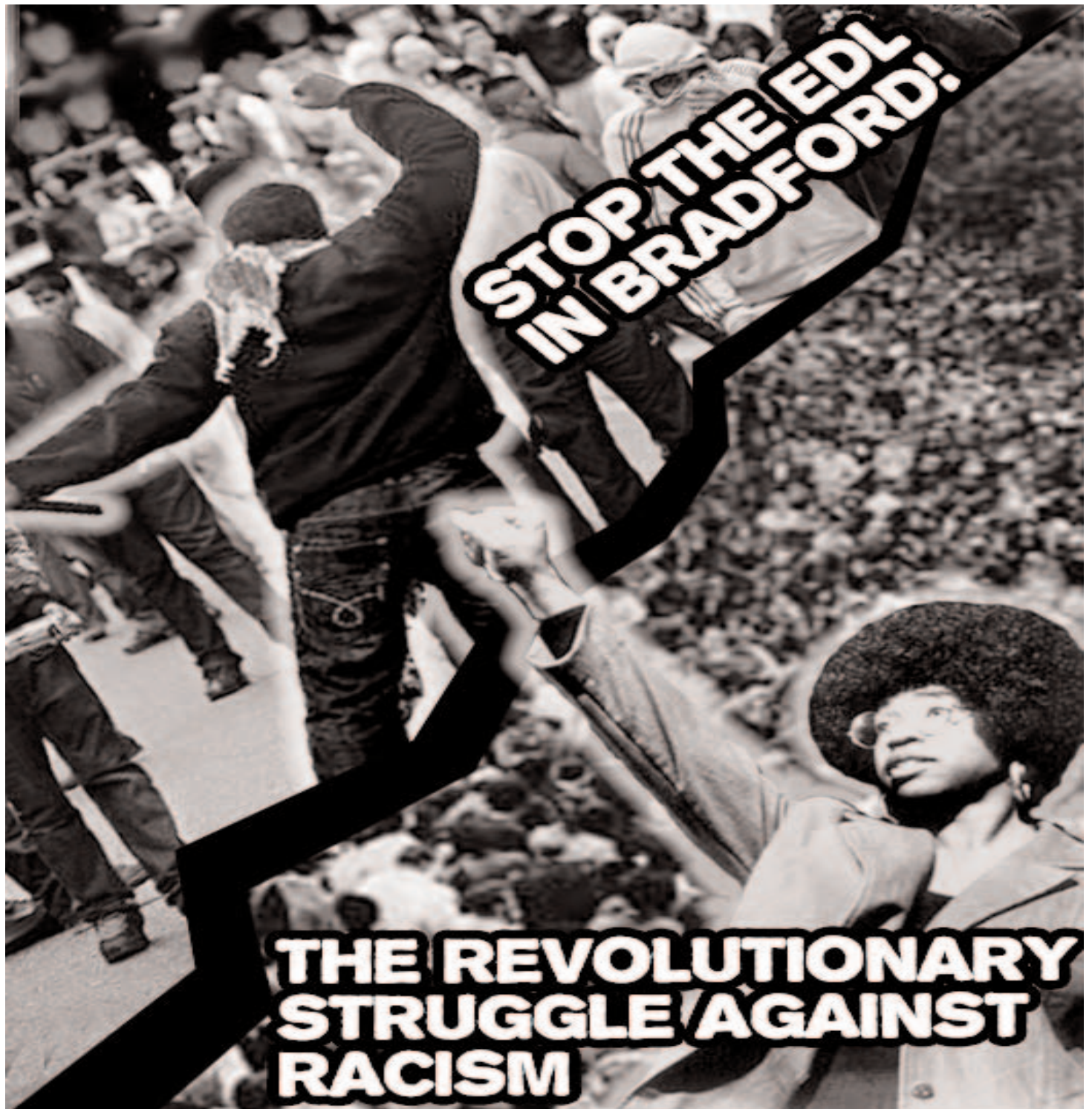


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REVOLUTION

socialist youth movement

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A REVOLUTION Special on Racism and Fascism

The fight against Racism

By Mark

Racism is on the rise across Britain. As the economic crisis rips apart communities and plunges millions into poverty, and the barrage of cuts destroys our public services the capitalist government and media have whipped up a storm of racism in order to divide the working-class and youth and weaken our resistance to the capitalist onslaught.

The government and the right-wing media blame migrants and refugees for stealing jobs, and whip up hatred against them, when in fact it's the capitalists and the banks that are cutting jobs and throwing hundreds of thousands on the dole. At the same time the fascist English Defence League (EDL) is organising a campaign of violent protests across the country attacking Muslims. Under the banner of fighting "Islamic extremism" they are building a movement which they are using to attack Asian, black and migrant communities all over Britain.

This isn't just the fault of a few vicious racists or people with misguided ideas. Racism is part and parcel of the capitalist system. Workers are forced to compete for jobs, housing, services, everything they need to survive, and when there frequently isn't enough to go around, we are played off against each other by the capitalists. Racism serves to divide and weaken working-class resistance to the attacks on our wages, jobs and services. If the capitalists can make us fight each other, we won't be able to fight them.

This is why we need to build the fighting unity of all black, white and asian workers against the capitalists, and against all racist and fascist movements that seek to divide us. The English Defence

League claim they are "only" campaigning against Muslims now, but they have already attacked workers and trade union meetings in Bristol and Manchester, and if they grow stronger they will launch more attacks against other communities and progressive organisations.

That is why Revolution supports the formation of an Anti-Fascist Defence League to organise all those who are willing to mobilise to physically stop the fascist EDL from marching.

But defeating the EDL on the streets won't improve conditions for working-class people, that's why we need to build mass anti-cuts campaigns drawing in the trade unions, workers, youth and community organisations to launch a fightback against the cuts, unemployment and misery and make the capitalists, not the workers, pay for their crisis.!



REVOLUTION in Bolton protesting against the EDL March

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Revolution Austria takes on Neo-Nazi Thugs

By John & Katja

As Revolution organises in Bradford to stop the fascist English Defence League from marching, Revolution members in Austria are campaigning to fight fascism in Vienna.

The city is still in shock after neo-Nazis set fire to university halls of residence in July where Turkish students were living.

The fascists painted racist slogans on the building such as "Seig Heil Turkish scum", and "living here – soon dead". They drew Swastikas and Nazi insignia to intimidate residents.

Then they set fire to a dustbin inside the building on 7 July. They returned in the next week to do the same – daubing the halls with the slogan "we're back, you wogs".

Katja from REVOLUTION in Vienna said "We couldn't let this cruel attack go on unchallenged. We worked with

Revolution Austria demonstrates against Neo-Nazi thugs



other anti-racist organisations to hold an anti-fascist rally in the district. But we realised this on its own was not enough – so we held an "Antifascist day" which was a great success."

"We knew that this attack could be the beginning of more violence from the far-right, with racism being ramped up before elections taking

place in Austria. That's why we are trying to build a mass campaign against victimisation of migrants".

"We are fighting to challenge far-right parties like the Austrian Freedom Party who exploit that racism, and that have links to violent skin heads like the 'Olympia' gang who carry out racist attacks."

Defend Bradford - Stop the English Defence League!

By John

The English Defence League are a racist and fascist organisation who want to build a violent mass movement on the streets of Britain's cities and towns.

They claim they are against "Islamic extremism" but this is a cover for their racist campaign against all black, asian, migrants and refugees and anyone who does not fit their twisted definition of "English".

The EDL have held over 40 demonstrations across the country. In Stoke-on-Trent in January, they daubed racist graffiti onto a mosque and attacked Asian residents and businesses. In Dudley in April they attacked a Sikh temple. Their demonstrations have become larger and more aggressive.

This is why anti-racists need to stop them marching in Bradford, where they are launching a provocative attack on a city where the muslim

population have suffered years of abuse from fascists in the BNP and National Front.

The Hope Not Hate campaign and local community leaders are arguing that the police should ban the EDL from marching in Bradford. But in 2001, when National Front thugs attacked Asian youth in the city, their march had been banned - and the fascists turned up anyway. The police arrested hundreds of young Asian people, who suffered enormous prison sentences for trying to defend their community from the white supremacists.

Throughout history the police have always meted out the worst repression for those who oppose racism, and many young people know how the police treat black and Asian people when they try to move us on or stop and search us.

That is why we need a massive

counter demonstration to stop the EDL, mobilising workers and youth from every community to deny them a platform and stop them marching.

Peaceful festivals celebrating multiculturalism, like the one being organised by Unite Against Fascism, are fine for combating racist ideas and building unity in our communities, but when the fascists march in our towns and cities we need a mass mobilisation to stop them, and we need to be organised and prepared to defend ourselves if they attack us.

That's why we need to build an Antifascist Defence League - to organise self-defence against EDL thugs when they attack our demonstrations or try to march in our cities, and organise self-defence against racist police who attack workers and minority communities in the name of law and order. This way we can be organised and prepared to meet the fascists when they come.

*** ONE WORLD * ONE BATTLE ***

REVOLUTION 3

Bradford Riots 2001:

By Richard



In early 2001, fascist thugs from the BNP, Combat 18 and the National Front had rampaged through the northern towns of Oldham, Burnley and Leeds. They had smashed up Asian shops and homes, beaten up Asian people and attempted to bring terror to the towns. Then the National Front – a small fascist organisation with a neo-nazi membership – announced they were going to march through Bradford City centre on 7 July.

The then Home Secretary, David Blunkett, banned the march under the Public Order Act of 1986. The Anti-Nazi League held a peaceful rally in Centenary Square in the centre of Bradford on the day the NF would have had their march. The National Front turned up anyway and were busy boozing all over the city when they were spotted in a nearby pub. News of this spread to those at the ANL rally and after the NF had

stabbed a man and attacked and beaten up several others, a crowd surged towards the pub to defend their city and their community.

The police had other ideas however and focussed their efforts on protecting the NF. A witness at the time saw a group of Asian women being attacked.

“Two NF went and spat at them and threw a drink over them. The police weren’t far off. They were watching but they didn’t do anything. Later on an Asian guy started swearing at the NF and sticking his fingers up. The police came up to him and gave him a warning.”

As evening approached, riot police and mounted officers began to force back the crowd of anti-fascists, pushing hun-

dreds of them up into Manningham – a largely Asian area of the city. Youth fought against the police’s attempts to drive them out of their own city and stop them from protecting their community against fascist attack. Pubs and clubs thought to be housing fascists were attacked and a BMW dealership was burnt to the ground. Witnesses on the day said the police inflamed the situation hugely and made their intentions clear – to protect the fascist NF and to drive the Asians “back home” into their own community to sort out their “own problems.”

In the days and weeks afterwards, the Asian youth who had tried to defend their city were completely demonised. The local paper – The Bradford Telegraph and Argus – published pictures of many of them and called for their community leaders to hand them over to the police. The Home Secretary said that what happened

The Fire Last Time

was "sheer mindless violence...people acting in a totally anti-social and thug-gish fashion." The invasion of Bradford by fascists and neo-nazis was forgotten about. The youth who had bravely stood up to them and who - when the police defended the NF - had stood up to the police, were branded as "evil thugs."

Under this pressure, families and community leaders did start to take their sons and relatives down to the police stations to admit their involvement. They believed that the police would understand why they had been angry and thrown a few stones, or resisted the police. They believed that the fact that this was, for many of them, their first offence would mean the police or the courts would be lenient on them.

In short, they believed that the state would be fair and understanding.

They were wrong.

In the hundreds of court cases that followed the idea was pushed again and again that this was "mindless" violence. As in "done for no reason." As in "unthinking." A community defending itself against fascist and police attacks and intimidation is not a mindless act. But neither the police nor the courts are concerned with such things. They said so themselves. In the words of Judge Stephen Gullick, who sentenced many of those involved:

"It must be made crystal clear to everyone that on such tumultuous and riotous occasions, each individual who

takes an active part... is guilty of an extremely grave offence simply by being in a public place and being engaged in a crime against the peace."

In the end around 200 jail sentences totalling 604 years were handed down. Among those jailed were Mohammed Akram, who got five years for throwing objects; Mohammed Munir, four years and nine months for throwing two stones; Ashraf Hussein, four years for throwing three stones; and Istifar Iqbal, 11 months for picking up - but not throwing - two stones.

Some are still in prison to this day - and are living examples of the brutality and racism of the police, the courts and the capitalist state.

Gaza protestors punished for resisting war

By Samia

December 2008 and January 2009 witnessed one of the most vicious attacks Israel has made on Palestine. Gaza was left devastated by weeks of continuous bombing which left over 1400 people dead, many of whom were children.

Huge protests broke out all over the world expressing outrage at Israeli actions and the silence of world leaders. With the British government unashamedly taking Israel's side - the BBC refused to even broadcast the DEC's charity appeal - no wonder there were clashes with the police when they used violence to clear demonstrators away from the Israeli embassy.

Following the protests, 119 young people were arrested. They were predominantly Muslim and aged between

16-19 years, the youngest being just 12. Many of these young people, who had never been in any sort of trouble before, were encouraged to plead guilty, being persuaded that they would probably receive a suspended sentence or just community service.

However, all the protestors who pleaded guilty to violent disorder received immediate prison sentences. This was a politically motivated assault on Muslim youth who dared to stand up to the state and oppose injustice. It was aimed at intimidating them from demonstrating in the future, and breaking their will to resist.

A total of 78 protesters were charged, mostly with violent disorder, and jail terms handed out range from eight months to two and a half years.

Recently, 7 young people won appeals and had their sentences shortened by a few months. Judges have openly accepted that the young people are innocent, and apologetic of any wrongdoing. However, unfair sentences have been distributed as politically motivated deterrence. While it is claimed this preserves order and social stability, in reality it is does nothing but ensuring the actions of governments across the world go unchecked, and that the democratic right to protest is eroded still further.

The BBC bosses who let people die through their refusal to broadcast the DEC appeal, the British arms companies who supply Israel with weapons, and the British politicians who arrange it should be the ones in jail, not anti-war protestors.

Angela Davis: revolutionary fighter against racism

BY RACHEL

The 'deep south' of the United States of America used to be a grim place for black people, having failed to overcome the overwhelming racism of 19th century slavery. But starting in the 1950s, a mass movement shook the foundations of US racism to the core.

It was called the Civil Rights movement, and struggled for equal rights for black people against the legalised discrimination found in many states. As the movement grew, so did its militancy, as it inevitably came up against the state machine used to back up racism, with the full force of the police and judicial system.

Angela Davis, born in 1944 in Birmingham, Alabama became part of that militant wing of the civil rights movement. Angela was taught at a young age by her parents to think critically, and despite a segregated school system that provided almost nothing for black students; she defied all the odds and received offers from several prestigious universities.

Leaving the south behind, she went to university in Massachusetts where she learned more about socialist ideas, before studying further a field in France and the German city of Frankfurt. But the reality of the land she left behind soon caught up when she got news that a church had been bombed in her hometown. The perpetrators were the Klu Klux Klan, the most rotten and vile manifestation of white supremacists. Angela knew the victims and the attack had a huge impact on her. She realised that she had to return back to the States and fight to smash racism there.

By now the Civil Rights Movement in America was in full swing, marches



and rallies were held all over the country, but met with massive repression from both the police and white supremacists.

Angela joined the American Communist Party, and associated herself with the Black Panthers - a group that aimed to defend black people

“The only true path of liberation for black people is the one that leads towards a complete and total overthrow of the capitalist class in this country.”

from racists and police repression “by any means necessary.” This was important - by this point the police and courts were using violent repression, frame-ups, harsh sentencing, rigged juries and almost any means to quell

the mass anti-racist uprising.

She - and many others - recognised that the racism of the state was to defend a racist system; capitalism. Therefore the only way to defeat racism was to defeat capitalism. She brought a socialist analysis to the Civil Rights Movement. In her own words “Racism, in the first place, is a weapon used by the wealthy to increase the profits they bring in by paying Black workers less for their work.” However she was critical of the black nationalism of many of the radical civil rights campaigners. She



BLACK PANTHER PARTY FOR SELF-DEFENSE

viewed all nationalisms as an obstacle to grappling with the underlying issue, capitalist domination of working people of all races and nationalities.

Angela's main area of work in the Civil Rights Movement was therefore vital. She used her academic profile to campaign against police repression and the prison system. Angela said: "Jails and prisons are designed to break human beings, to convert the population into specimens in a zoo - obedient to our keepers, but dangerous to each other." She became very close to experiencing this first hand.

In 1970, three inmates in Soledad prison, one of them a Black Panther - George Jackson - were accused of murdering a prison guard. They became known as the Soledad Brothers and Angela helped organise a solidarity campaign to free them. But a plot to break them out of prison by Jackson's brother resulted in the kidnap and shooting of a high court judge. The police said the gun had been bought by Angela, and she was

forced to flee the ensuing police man-hunt.

Angela was caught and tried 2 months later, but a massive international solidarity campaign was launched to free



her, and she was found 'not guilty' by an all white jury. She fled to Cuba to avoid further victimisation, as did many other civil rights activists and became a popular figure among Afro-Cubans.

But Angela's politics weren't perfect, she was a Stalinist, and was uncritical of the lack of workers' democracy in the Soviet Union and other Stalinist regimes'. Her lack of real long-term strategy for the working class to take power meant that after the USSR collapsed she saw no alternative and left the Communist Party, moving away from communism and revolution as a strategy for working-class emancipation. She now limits herself to fighting for reforms, but she still tours regularly and is a vigorous campaigner against the US' imperialist wars.

However, what she brought to the table in the 1970's was very important: she was a woman working in a very macho, sexist, political movement, she was a communist working in a largely black nationalist movement and she was a militant engaging with pacifists: for this REVOLUTION celebrates her contribution to the Civil Rights Movement and looks to her example in the struggle against racism today!

Niqaab ban – a racist attack on muslim women

By Samia

The French government has declared the niqaab - a full-faced veil - illegal to wear in public. Women who break the law will now face a fine of 150 Euros.

The right-wing French president, Nicolas Sarkozy, has used the language of the great 18th century French revolution, which gave birth to the ideas of equality, fraternity and freedom to excuse the ban on the grounds of defending French "secularism".

But the French revolution created a space whereby people could unquestionably express their own cultural identities. To impose fines on women that choose to dress a certain way is a big step backwards.

Sarkozy said that full face coverings

were a "sign of subservience" - so now he, and the French parliament, have set about "liberating" women by financially penalising them. And it must stop.

The niqaab is only worn by a small minority of women in France - and whilst the idea of covering up the full-face is not a progressive one, in reality, the niqaab ban only removes the personal choice that women make to wear, or not to wear religious clothing.

Jean Glavany, a Socialist MP, summed up the situation arguing that it is "nothing more than the fear of those who are different, who come from abroad, who aren't like us, who don't share our values."

This was the real reason for the

French niqaab ban - but now the right-wing British tabloids are campaigning to get it banned in the UK too. If they try then they should expect a fight!



The police: only doing their job?

By Chris

When we are brought up we are taught that the police force is there to “protect and serve” communities in Britain. Even some “socialist” groups say the police are just working class people in uniforms, and many working class people do join the police with the idea that they will just be fighting criminals and protecting innocent people.

But events in the UK, from the Bradford riots in 2001 where racist police attacked and arrested Asian youth defending their communities from fascists, to the G20 protests where the police murdered Ian Tomlinson and got away scot-free, has made it obvious that the role of the police is not simply to protect ordinary people. In fact often they do the opposite! So what is the role of the police in capitalism - and who do they really protect?

The police are part of the state - which includes parliament, the courts, the civil service and the army. But the state under capitalism is not a neutral body; it defends the interests of the rich and powerful in society.

When the rich politicians and bankers who control the state cannot peacefully control all society through parliament, the courts and the media, they will turn from “peaceful” coercion and will use



the police as a physical force to protect their rule.

Whenever they feel that their private property is threatened they will use their police force as an army to brutalise any opposition like they infamously did in the 1984 Miner's Strike. The police force will then attack the communities they claim to serve and protect. But we say “self defence is no offence!”

If the police are going to attack communities, picket lines and protests then we need to organise self defence and defend our rights! The police will always claim they 'are just doing their job' and they are; they are following orders from millionaire politicians to break strikes and stop protests in the name of protecting capitalism!